(e) whether it is also a fact that maximum number of textile mills are proposed to the closed down in Gujarat and, as a result thereof maximum number of workers are likely to be retrenched in the state;

(f) if so, what are the reasons for closing of maximum number of textile mills in Gujarat and the resultant retrenchment of workers; and

(g) what amount has been sanctioned for modernisation of sick textile mills in different State, state-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (g) Government have approved a Turn Around Strategy for NTC mills. The Key elements of this strategy would be selective modernisation, financial and managerial restructuring and rationalisation of surplus workforce through the Voluntary Retirement Scheme. Voluntary Retirement Scheme will also be offered to the officers, staff and workers of such chronically sick mills, which have no possibility of viability and which may have to be closed down or merged with adjacent units to ensure viability. The viability of these mills will be determined on the basis of financial performance, productivity, man-machine ratio, wage cost etc. It is expected that about 80,000 officers, staff and workers of NTC would avail of Voluntary Retirement Scheme, under which they would be provided *ex-gratia* payment equivalent to 1½ months emoluments for each completed year of service, in addition to normal terminal benefits. An outlay of Rs. 532.78 crore has been envisaged for strengthening/ modernisation the viable mills of NTC in the Turn Around Strategy. This would include budgetary support as well as funds from financial institutions.

Purchase of jute from village market by J.C.I.

490. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY:
SHRI RAMNARAYAN GOSWAMI:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment are aware that the jute growers of North Bengal are facing hardships due to the JCI's decision not to purchase jute from the village market (HAT);

(b) whether it is also a fact that the decision of jute Corporation of India not to purchase the raw jute from the village market has helped the big farmers and middleman;

(c) if so, what is Govenment's reaction thereto; and

(d) what steps are proposed to be taken by Government to ensure that the J.C.I. purchases jute from the growers directly in order to protect the interest of small jute growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) J.C.I. is required to purchase whatever quantity of raw jute that is offered for sale at minimum support prices. The Departmental purchase Centres, Sub Centres and agents of J.C.I. in North Bengal have, accordingly, purchased 1,90,833 bales of raw jute up to 12.11.92 during the 1992-93 jute season to protect the interests of the jute growing farmers. This jute has been purchased directly from the farmers on the basis of jute cards issued by the State Government.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Bills passed by the Houses of Parliament during the Hundred and Sixty-fourth Session

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I lay on the Table a statement (in English and